

e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 59

January 2012

No. 1



Calendar

Mon., Dec. 26	Town Office closed	Fri., Jan. 13	Film Society, Town Hall, <i>Waitress</i> , 7 pm dinner, 8 pm film
Wed., Dec. 28	No Citizens Assoc. meeting	Thurs., Jan. 19	Jam Session, Town Hall, 8 pm
Mon., Jan. 2	Christmas tree and monthly yard waste collection; Town Office closed	Fri., Jan. 20	Pick up <i>Bugle</i> from table in PO lobby
Thurs., Jan. 5	Jam Session, Town Hall, 8 pm	Sun., Jan. 22	GIVES Tea & Thanks, 3–5 pm (see p 2)
Sat., Jan. 7	Large item pickup	Wed., Jan. 25	Citizens Assoc. meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm, topic TBA
Sun., Jan. 8	Opening reception, photographs by Tammy Trocki, Penn Place Art Space, 3 to 5 pm (see p 2)	Sat., Jan. 28	POSCO open meeting on Cambria Courts rehabilitation, Town Hall, 10:30 am to noon (see p 5)
Mon., Jan. 9	Town Council meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm	Sat., Feb. 4	Town Dinner, Town Hall (save the date)
Tues., Jan. 10	Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30 pm; <i>Bugle</i> deadline, 4 pm		

Attention!

It's rare that an actual headline emerges from a Town Council meeting, but this month, the Council voted in favor of the introduction of a proposed ordinance—number 2011-05—which specifies various land use amendments for Garrett Park. (Details are on the town Web site.) This legislation itself, introduced by Beth Irons, will be voted on in February, after various forms of public discussion.

There was lots of discussion among the Council, at this December meeting, of the details of the wording of the land use proposal; townspeople in the audience also had questions and concerns. "Sounds like this is going to have a major impact on our lives," said one resident. Beth agreed, and said that tonight's proposal was an effort to get something concrete for people to respond to.

Given the important implications of these proposed changes, this is definitely front-page headline stuff.

Just as urgent as these proposed changes are proposed changes to the MARC schedule. Liz King spoke to the Council about Garrett Park possibly losing significant service from the city, and the Council agreed that a letter from the town to MARC should go out, and that Jack Mandel will

attend a meeting of managers involved in making changes. Brian Mizoguchi called the possibility of losing two trains in the evening "a pretty devastating cut."

Next Charlie Snyder, noting that the Archives Committee, with help from terrific volunteers, has made great progress in its work, now asked the Council to approve "engaging a part-time temporary archivist to guide us over the next few months." This is not a hire, but rather contract work with no long-term commitment. It emerges from the fact that "we now have to make decisions we're not capable of making" regarding a complex and large trove of materials.

In his Mayor's Report, Chris noted that "people have really rallied around" after a recent fire in town.

Paving at the Community Center has been completed.

And the question of whether Garrett Park wants to try to become a Quiet Zone has again come up. Jack Mandel pointed out that "it's incredibly difficult" to make this happen, but after 10 years, another train community, Forest

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Glen, has accomplished it. And across the tracks in Randolph Hills there are now people working on it.

In Councilmember Reports, Hans Wegner described a good recent walk through town with Pepco, which has agreed, at no cost to the town, to bundle Strathmore Avenue wires, and some other wires in town (bundling gives the wires more strength in terms of events like tree falls). We'll also be getting an estimate from them on removing the utility pole in the middle of the Penn Place parking lot.

The SHA has some solutions in mind for the degradation of some Strathmore Avenue crosswalks. And SHA has agreed to appoint *one* contact person for dealings with town, in place of the many different people we've had to deal with.

POSCO will sponsor a charrette at the Town Hall on January 28, beginning at 10:30 am, on the redesign of what are now the old tennis courts at Cambria near the pool (see p 5). Townspeople are invited to express their views; the committee will, before the meeting, distribute one proposed redesign, to get discussion going.

One resident asked why the town doesn't charge non-Garrett Parkers who use, for instance, certain playing fields in town. The Mayor talked about administrative and enforcement difficulties.

In other Action items, work on the sidewalk along 18000 Kenilworth has been completed, and we hope to start work on our storm drains in January.

Jack Mandel closed discussion of town business by noting that there's a deer carcass near the train tracks. "CSX says it's Garrett Park's responsibility. Animal Control says it will deal with it."

Margaret Soltan

Art at Penn Place

From January 1 to February 5, the photographs of Garrett Park resident Tammy Trocki will be on display at the Penn Place Art Space. An opening reception for this show will be held on Sunday, January 8, from 3 to 5 pm. Wine, cheese, and other goodies will be served.

Tammy's images are land- and beachscapes with a twist, going beyond realism to capture what she sees as essential or surprising. Most images in the show feature local scenes, including Garrett Park.

Tammy started photography in earnest by going on "Washington Photo Safari" weekends a few years ago. She then completed a professional photography program last year at the Washington School of Photography (WSP). She is now a part-time WSP instructor, photographer, and specialist in photo restoration.

The Gift of GIVES

A heartfelt thank you to all who contributed to and volunteered for GIVES in 2011! We're happy to announce that we've donated a total of \$6,000 this year and divided that amount between Thrive DC and American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). There is still time to make your year-end tax-deductible donation to GIVES; please remember that 100 percent of your donation goes directly to Thrive DC and AFSC, as GIVES has no overhead.

In 2012, we'll continue our regular first Saturday of the month collection at the GP Post Office and will begin collecting again at the Hares Valley Growers Farmers Market on the third Saturday of the month from May through November (weather permitting). Also, GIVES is extending its collection of gently used or new warm socks and hats at the GP Post Office through January 31. And, as in years past, we will be accepting any donations of toiletries throughout 2012 and will drop them off at Thrive DC as often as we can.

Volunteer Tea, January 22: Can You Spare Two Hours?

The GIVES "Tea & Thanks" is scheduled for 3 to 5 pm on Sunday, January 22 (with snow dates of either February 12 or 22) at the home of Karen Anderson, so please RSVP to Karen or to Rana Koll-Mandel. We'll be toasting our hard-working volunteers and generous contributors and hoping to recruit some new volunteers to this most worthy cause and GP tradition, now in its 38th year... Truth is, in these difficult economic times, so many more really need our help. To start giving the gift of GIVES, can you spare only two hours in 2012? Please call Nancy Walz, Rana Koll-Mandel, or Karen Anderson (phone numbers in the printed *Bugle*) to volunteer or to get further information. Help us keep the Garrett Park tradition alive!

Visit Garrett Park's Web site:

www.garrettpark-md.gov

The *Garrett Bugle* is a publication of the Citizens Association of Garrett Park, published 10 times a year. Publication of the *Bugle* is supported by member dues. All residents of Garrett Park are members of the Citizens Association. Yearly dues (\$20 per family or \$10 per individual per address) can be sent to Citizens Association, Box 456, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

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First-class subscriptions cost \$15 (bulk mail subscriptions are no longer available). Letters to the editor can be submitted by mail or hand to *Bugle* staff or by e-mail through the town Web site: www.garrettpark-md.gov/submit-BugleArticle.php. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions for length and clarity. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

Town Administrator Notes

Snow removal. Please help Butch, Frank, and Jose to keep our streets clear when it snows:

- Please park cars off the streets when snow is predicted.
- Please do not block intersections, particularly the Kenilworth/Rokeby barricade. Also, the hill on Oxford leading down to Weymouth has been a problem, with cars parked on both sides of the street, making it impossible for the plow or other emergency vehicles to get through.
- Please keep sidewalks in front of your homes shoveled. The Town Maintenance Department will take care of Penn Place and the Town Hall. Please call the Town Office if you would like a list of young residents who are interested in work shoveling snow.
- Do remember that Argyle Avenue is closed for sledding when snow falls. Be especially careful where Argyle meets Rokeby at Wells Park. Should the hill become icy, the hill will be cleared or sanded.

Residents are asked to clear their own driveways all the way to the street. After street plowing is completed, the crew will go through town and push back driveways.

If any residents have special concerns about access to their homes during or after a snow-

storm, please contact the Town Office so that we can be aware of them and provide assistance as needed.

We will make every effort to push back driveways and clear out snowbound cars. If you experience unusual problems, please call the Town Office (301-933-7488).

Leaf removal, yard waste. Leaf removal has finished. Please do not put leaves in the street; they should be bagged and will be removed by the monthly yard waste pickups. Remember, yard waste is collected on the *first Mondays* in January and February (Jan. 2 and Feb. 6). We will return to weekly collection in March.

Trash, recycling, & large items. Trash and recycling pickups will take place on the usual days through the holidays. Please be sure to break down Christmas cardboard boxes to help the recycling crew. There will be a large item pickup on Saturday, January 7.

Christmas trees. Christmas trees will be collected and chipped by the town's Maintenance Department as they are put out. Please remove as much tinsel as possible, and, of course, all ornaments, so we can keep our woodchip pile as clean as possible.

Holiday tips. Many residents have already given generously to the Holiday Tip Fund for the men who collect our trash. If anyone still wishes to make a gift, it is not too late. We typically receive numerous contributions after Christmas and make a second "New Year" distribution to these deserving individuals.

Town Dinner. The date for the Town Dinner is Saturday, February 4. Save the date!

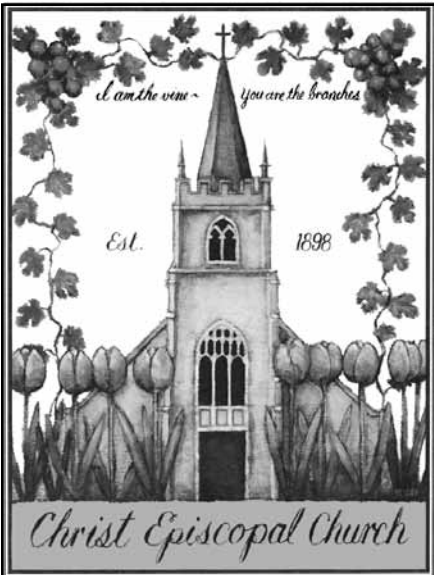
Elizabeth, Butch, Frank, and Jose join me in wishing all town residents a happy holiday season. As always, if you have questions, concerns, or just want to chat, please feel free to stop by the office any time, or call 301-933-7488. (The office will be closed on December 23 and 31.)

Ted Pratt, Town Administrator

Green Again

Florence Gootenberg made her yearly donation in honor of husband "Santa" Roy to cover the cost of our green banner. We thank her, and we remember Roy fondly. Anyone else up to a donation to the fund? If you would care to sponsor a green banner after March 2012, please make out a check for \$45 to the Citizens Association and mail it to me at Box 98. Your Citizens Association dues fund this publication, as well as the 4th of July festivities, the Newcomers Welcome, and the Town Dinner. Send in your dues to Box 456.

Mary Moyer



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Bugle Notes . . . Sweet and Sour

- ♪ From the Mizoguchis comes the following: son Brian moved to New York City, where he is an Investment Adviser with ING Financial Partners, working with clients in the New York and Washington regions.
- ♪ A devastating fire destroyed the Peacocks' home on Cambria on December 7. If you check the Garrett Park Listserv or call the Town Office or Kathy Hedge, you can find out what you can do to help the family. They are very appreciative of the outpouring of donations from the community.
- ♪ GPES is on the move. Packing has begun in earnest, and the bulk of the move will take place in the week between Christmas and New Year's. There will be no school on December 23 or January 3 so that the staff can get geared up to start teaching again. The phone number will return to 301-929-2170.
- ♪ The PO is valiantly trying to keep on top of the holiday rush. We hope you mailed all your holiday gifts in plenty of time to get where

they are going. The staff wishes us all a happy holiday season, and thanks us for our good wishes.

- ♪ A well-rounded 29th annual Do-It-Yourself Carolfest was held at the Town Hall on December 9. Just about every seat was filled for the first half, and the children did a splendid job with their bell-ringing. Thanks go to Sue Numrich of the Estates for conducting again this year and to the Women's Club for the refreshing punch.

Thank You, Cub Scouts!

The seniors in Garrett Park want to thank Garrett Park's Cub Scouts, Pack 521, for raking leaves for us. They were assisted by their moms and dads, their leaders, and Boy Scouts from Garrett Park Troop 467. All of you worked very hard, and our yards look great! We really appreciate your efforts.

Thank you from the seniors!

GPFS Presents *Waitress*, January 13

Waitress, an amusing and heart-warming film for a winter night, is the story of Jenna, a young, small-town waitress in a bad marriage, who escapes her worries by baking pies. Filled with memorable characters, including Andy Griffith as the owner of the diner where Jenna works, *Waitress* is a modern-day fairy tale, one where Prince Charming is already married, and the heroine must find her own way out of the dilemma. This 2007 film stars Keri Russell and was written and directed by the late Adrienne Shelly (she also plays one of the waitresses). It is rated PG. The film will be shown at 8 pm on Friday, January 13, in the Town Hall.

Given that pie-making plays a major part in the story, dessert, and possibly dinner, will

feature pie. There may even be a contest! More details on dinner and the possible contest will be available on the GPFS poster in the PO during the week of January 8. Dinner will cost ~\$10 per adult and \$5 for children 10 or under, and will be served at 7 pm. Beer and wine (\$3 and \$5 respectively) will also be available. Soda, water, popcorn, and nuts are \$1 each or free with a 2012 GPFS member coupon.

The Film Society has scheduled 9 films for its 2012 series. A family membership costs only \$40, a single membership costs just \$25. A copy of the membership form can be found on the town Web site, or contact Suzanne Grefsheim (see Town Directory). For the greatest benefit, now is the time to join!



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POSCO Seeks Ideas for Cambria Courts

On Saturday, January 28 from 10:30 am to noon at the Town Hall, the Parks and Open Space Committee (POSCO) is sponsoring an open meeting of interested Garrett Park citizens to gather input on how best to rehabilitate Cambria Courts.

As reported in the November *Bugle*, POSCO, with the approval of the Town Council, plans to apply for a grant from the state to renovate Cambria Courts and Manny’s Wood. A preliminary drawing, based on ideas generated from the committee’s 2009 survey, has been prepared by Goshen Enterprises. But it is just one idea. No doubt Garrett Parkers will have much to add.

Plan to come and share your ideas/comments (coffee, cider, and donuts will be served). A renovated Cambria Courts will need to serve the needs of all ages. So, in addition to long-time residents and parents of school-age children and teens, POSCO members are especially interested in getting input from children and teens themselves about what they would like to see happen with this park.

POSCO members (Chuck Berry, Lillian and Todd DelPriore, Jim Fitzgerald, Suzanne Grefsheim, Art Heyman, Frank Obrimski, Chris Petito [Council Liaison], Phil Schulp [co-Liaison], Mayor Chris Keller [ex-officio], and Ida Sullivan, chair) look forward to seeing you there.

From the Archives...

- In 1943, a group of investors paid \$205,000 for the 118-acre Corby estate. They hoped to build the “Diplomat,” a 20-million-dollar hotel with bridle paths, golf course, ballroom to accommodate a thousand waltzing couples, and an indoor skating rink. However, they neglected to apply for a change in zoning. (From *The Washington Times-Herald*)
- An outdoor dance (the Whistle Stomp) and a multimedia revue (the Demi-sesquicentennial Hemi-Demi-Semiquavers) were two of the ways town residents celebrated the 75th anniversary of the incorporation of the town in 1973. (From *Garrett Park History*, available for purchase in the Archives)
- In the fall of 1893, when a one-room school opened at what is now 10701 Kenilworth Avenue (now the home of John Wilpers), there was a flag pole and a big bell pulled by

- a rope. Inside, drinking water was available in a large bucket, which was refilled at 10706 Kenilworth (now the Anderson / Reinhardt residence). Usually seven grades were taught, with enrollment between 20 and 25 children. (Read more in the *Garrett Park History*.)
- “Irene Temple Bailey, once queen of romantic novelists, was attracted to the aesthetic [Corby] estate... Although her ivory tower consisted of a mere carriage-house now rehabilitated as a home between Argyle and Waverly Avenues, she was inspired in the course of her stay to compose prolific prose. Scenes for *The Dim Lantern*, published many years after Miss Bailey’s departure, were laid in the Park, and the hero’s character was based on that of Evans Fugitt, who used to live beside the former Corby property.” (From “A Short History of Garrett Park” by Mildred L. Cleves, 1958)

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Letter from the Mayor

As I write this letter, I have just come from a circuit of town, viewing holiday decorations for the Holiday Decoration Contest sponsored by the Women's Club. This is a particularly fun reminder that some of our best town "traditions" are newly minted. A very different, but equally representative and admirable quality of Garrett Park was recently demonstrated anew by the outpouring of assistance for the Peacocks, town residents who lost their home in a heartbreaking fire. Although thankfully no one was seriously injured, it was a devastating loss. The swiftness and generosity of neighbors' caring and help lent a small silver lining to this terrible event. In a sense, one would expect nothing less in a town marked by goodwill and friendliness; still, the extent and ingenuity of assistance was gratifying to witness. We all wish the Peacocks the best as they rebuild, and I add my thanks to the many that have already been expressed for the generous response of neighbors.

In other news in town, we recently learned of planned cutbacks in MARC rail service to Garrett Park. For a town that prides itself on its railroad origins, this is a disturbing prospect. For residents who rely on MARC to commute to work, it is devastating. The town will appeal to the state to maintain the current service level to Garrett Park, but we also need your help. Parallels to the situation at the Garrett Park Post Office—also facing cutbacks—are imperfect, but the common element is that decisions by the controlling entities of these and other public services are increasingly being driven exclusively by financial considerations. We all, therefore, need to think hard about what we can do (beyond simply protesting) to help ensure the continuance of these services. Yes, it's increasingly difficult to do business at the GP Post Office, where long lines reflect the reduction in employees; but the viability of the Post Office is dependent on our continued patronage. (And besides, the lines are even longer elsewhere!) Likewise, although I know that Metro (notwithstanding its challenges) is often a better fit for our

personal schedules, please consider MARC for trips to the District if you possibly can. Increased boardings at Garrett Park are our surest proof against cutbacks in service.

At its December meeting, the Town Council introduced an ordinance that will continue the process of implementing certain recommendations of the Land Use Task Force regarding the town's building code. The provisions of the proposed ordinance are relatively straightforward and represent adjustments that can be made without corresponding changes to the Montgomery County Overlay Zone for Garrett Park. Citizen input is important, so I hope that you will take advantage of the fact that the Council announced that they will take two months to consider even these relatively minimal alterations. Later, a follow-up proposal will be introduced to address the more complex changes recommended by the Task Force. These undertakings will affect the appearance of Garrett Park for decades to come, so I urge you to examine the proposals and make your views known.

Similarly, I hope that you will participate actively in the Parks and Open Space Committee's efforts to gather resident input on ideas for the renovation of "Cambria Courts"—the town-owned space on Cambria Avenue just east of the swimming pool. The Committee is working hard to have this area reflect the desires of residents, especially our younger town inhabitants. The meeting on January 28 (see p 5) will be critical to shaping plans for the area, so please make every effort to attend, let your views be heard, and give us your ideas! Building for future generations is important to our little town, so please help the dedicated volunteers of the Committee as they seek to ensure an attractive, usable area for residents of all ages.

My family joins me in wishing you felicitations of the season!

Chris Keller

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